

The Cookbook Takes Off

Amazing. That's the only word that describes the initial reaction to the publication of *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*, CSZ's wholly amazing cookbook.

A spectacular full window display at Walt Whitman Books. *Fabulous* article in the B.A.R. Prominent placement in *The Love that Dares*, *Modern Times*, *Old Wives' Tales*, *Books, Etc.*, *Paperback Traffic*, *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, *Fannings* at Ghirardelli

Square, Judith Ets-Hokin, Nolo Press, and more to come. Money for the synagogue. Money for the AIDS Food Bank. Great cooking. Great eating. Tasteful illustrations.

If you and all your friends and relatives aren't supplied yet, copies are available for \$12.95 through your local bookstore or from the synagogue office. Remember, \$3 of each purchase goes to the S.F. AIDS Food Bank.

*And Your Daughters
Shall Prophesy...*

Adrienne Rich Reading

A poetry reading by Adrienne Rich on Saturday, November 7, will be the highlight of a special weekend "And Your Daughters Shall Prophesy." She will read selections from her work at a community gathering co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and Metropolitan Community Church. The evening will begin at 7:30, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. (between 18th & 19th streets).

Rich, a major American poet, has published nine books of poetry, including *The Fact of a Doorframe* and *The Dream of a Common Language*. A lesbian and a Jew, Rich has written influential and powerful prose essays as well. Many were published in her widely read book *On Lies, Secrets and Silences* (1978).

Because of the very limited seating available and the expected popularity of this program, admission will be by advance reservation only. The price is \$5-10 (sliding scale); to reserve a ticket, please send a check to the synagogue office. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis, and are reserved for synagogue members only until October 18. All tickets will be held at the door.

On Friday, November 6, Dr. Naomi Janowitz, professor of religious studies at the University of California, Davis, will speak during Shabbat services at Sha'ar Zahav. On Sunday morning, November 8, the Rev. Karen Ziegler, pastor of MCC New York will be speaking at MCC at their morning service beginning at 11 am. The membership of the respective congregations and the community are invited to each of these services.

In preparation for Adrienne Rich's appearance, Sha'ar Zahav will host an

(Continued on page 3)

Reflections on an Autumn Day

From the time very early in life when we begin school, all of us, whether Jewish or not, think of the year as beginning in September. Everyone knows The Year begins on January 1, but I don't know anyone who really feels that way. The new year is a time of reflection and introspection for all of us. This is mandated by our religious tradition, which tells us to look carefully at the year that is ending and, in a sense, to tidy up our lives.

Just as I was beginning the process this year I received a beautiful letter from my mother, who lives in the Chicago area where I grew up. She spoke of the feeling of autumn in the air and of the sadness it engendered in her. She also wrote of her sadness at the loss of a life-long friend, yet another of those close to her who had recently died. At the same time she spoke of the beauty of the season, and as always, her zest for life came through.

I love the autumn. It is a time when everything seems to be pulling back, drawing inward, calming down. It is, in fact, a time of dying; and it can be

intensely beautiful. Somehow our ancestors knew that this is the perfect time to examine our lives, to remember those who have gone before us, to miss them, to recall their names, and by choosing life, to go on.

In answering my mother's letter I was struck again by something I had realized before. I and those of our generation understand the feeling of losing spouse and friends, the loss of many of those dearest to us, in a way that only older generations are "supposed" to understand. It pleased me to be able to offer a word of consolation which came from a heart that truly could empathize. And I reminded my mother how lucky we were to have had such love in our lives.

The winter is coming. It will be darker and colder; some people will die. But winter will also bring newborn children and days of joyous celebration, and nights of candle lighting and warmth and good food and friendship, and more love. I wish all of us a happy new year.

—Richard Inlander, President

Wanted!

Donations for the Chanukah Raffle and Silent Auction are needed immediately. If you have any objects of art or services to offer, or know of local businesses which can be persuaded to donate trips, meals, or other services and products, please call Kipp Leyser (239-6111) or Alan Craig (552-8710) as soon as possible. The more donations the more exciting the Chanukah Raffle!

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Peter Vishniac (Advertising Coordinator), Howard Blechman, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the synagogue office at 861-6932.



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High Holiday Schedule

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 2
Kol Nidre, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 3
Shachrit-Musaf, 10 am
Children's Service, 1:30 pm
Mincha, 3:30 pm
Yizkor-Neilah, 5 pm

(Break fast to follow)

All Yom Kippur services to be held at
Unitarian Center, Franklin & Geary
streets.

Sukkot

Sunday, October 4
Sukkah Building, 424 Central, noon.

Thursday, October 8
Service/Potluck, 424 Central,
6:30 pm

Friday, October 9
Shabbat/Sukkot service, 8:15 pm
(at Sha'ar Zahav)

Saturday, October 10
Family/Children's Havurah
Potluck, 4 pm
(at home of Sue Douglass)

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 pm
(at Sha'ar Zahav)

March on Washington

Sha'ar Zahav members will be among those marching at the second national March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, October 8-13. Activists across the United States are organizing in their communities for this massive march and rally, which organizers expect will draw close to a million participants. Like the first march, held in 1979, the march will focus on the lives and struggles of lesbians and gay men of every background—including AIDS, violence against lesbians and gays, and job discrimination.

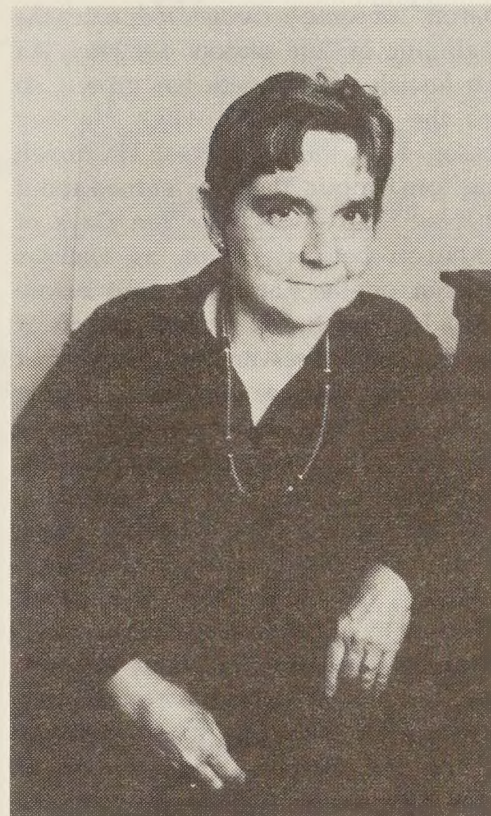
Among the activities will be a March against Death and Violence on October 11, a veterans memorial service, civil disobedience at the Supreme Court building, and a wedding ceremony.

As part of the activities for the march, Sha'ar Zahav is participating in the Names Project, a nationwide project to memorialize those who have died of AIDS. Fabric panels, each inscribed with the name of a person who has died of AIDS, are being sewn together into a gigantic quilt to be displayed at the march and rally. Sha'ar Zahav completed banners in memory of each congregation member who has died of AIDS as part of our Slichot observance on September 19, the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah.

For more information on transporta-
(Continued on page 6)

Adrienne Rich

(Continued from page 1)



evening of friendship and discussion on Monday, October 26, at 8 pm at the synagogue. Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Pastor Jim Mitulski will lead a discussion of two essays by Rich: "On Lies, Secrets and Silences" and "Split at the Root." Both essays are found in the book *On Lies, Secrets and Silences*. It is hoped that this will be the first of future joint programs sponsored by the two congregations. For more information about any of these activities, contact the synagogue office.

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Children's Havurah

Sukkot Potluck

The Family/Children's Havurah celebrates Sukkot on Saturday, October 10, at 4 pm at Sue Douglass' house in Oakland. We'll have a special Sukkot program, and, of course, a potluck; so bring your favorite thing to eat and to share.

Call Sue at 543-1606 or Jill at 543-2339 for more information and/or directions.

The Season of Our Joy

While Labor Day marks the end of "the season" for some activities, it denotes the beginning of "the season" for Jews. As our Jewish commitment has grown, so has the length of the High Holiday season. First, there was Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Then, we learned about Shabbat Shuvah and the Ten Days of Teshuvah between them, as well as Selichot on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. We included each of these in our observances. This year at Sha'ar Zahav we blew the Shofar throughout the month of Elul to announce the nearness of the Days of Awe.

By the time we reach the break-fast on Yom Kippur, some of us are spiritually—and, let's face it, Jewishly—exhausted. "Dai yeinu! Until Chanukah, at least..." some say. But the High Holiday season is not over. Immediately after Yom Kippur, the rabbis make clear, the fun has only just begun. The intensive introspection of Yom Kippur is complemented by the joyous festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Sukkot begins four days after Yom Kippur, on the 15th day of Tishri, and continues for seven days. The Sukkah, the non-permanent dwelling in which we symbolically live during the festival, recalls both the tabernacles of the Israelites when they left Egypt, as well as the shelters ancient Israelite farmers lived in during the harvest season. Our Siddur calls Sukkot *Z'man simchateinu*, the season of our joy.

What is the joy of Sukkot? Refreshed and renewed from the spiritual cleansing of the Yom Kippur, Sukkot is a bustle of activity. In contrast to the abstinence which characterizes Yom Kippur, Sukkot emphasizes the physical—our closeness to nature, harvest foods, song and the like. Our rabbis taught that the first mitzvah after Havdalah on Yom Kippur should be the beginning of the building of the Sukkah—a concrete action to reconnect us to the world of deeds and actions. Sukkot also serves as a transition from Yom Kippur back to "ordinary" time. In contrast to our solid, earthquake-proof (*k'ayn a-horah!*) houses, the Sukkah is temporary, porous and shaky. The vulnerability we experience during the

High Holidays is recalled by the impermanent structure of the Sukkah. The stars must be visible through the roof of the Sukkah—a reminder of the Shechinah's sheltering presence over all our dwellings, however temporary or vulnerable. CSZ's annual Sukkot potluck will be on the second day of the festival.

If the fun begins on Sukkot, it reaches a peak on Simchat Torah, Wednesday, October 14. Celebrating our annual completion of the Torah reading cycle and its immediate beginning once again, Simchat Torah at Sha'ar Zahav is noted for its traditional and innovative music, spirited dancing with the Torahs and with one another, and marching with our non-sexist flags. Celebrate and worship with us—it's a long time until Chanukah!

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

So why give?

- My parents used to give.
- I'm grateful there's a place for me.
- Let's make sure they don't need to charge admission next year.
- It's one of the commandments of the holidays.
- I meet the cutest people at the onegs.

You can choose one of these, or come up with one of your own; but please don't forget to return your pledge card!

Yahrzeits

- 1 Tobias Rothstein, great-grandfather of Bruce Katz
- 1 Raymond Watson, spiritual father of Peter Abinanti
- 2 Morris Landesman, grandfather of Jonathan Goldman
- 3 David Lawrence, friend of Richard Inlander
- 4 Bradley Presement, brother of Jeff Presement
- 4 (11 Tishri) Jacob Leiss, father of Walt Leiss
- 4 (11 Tishri) Lena Witt, grandmother of Sue Witt
- 10 Marcia Kalson, friend of Jeff Presement
- 10 Rebecca Prengler, great grandmother of Ann Biderman
- 10 (17 Tishri) Rabbi Ben Marcus, member of the Congregation
- 11 Ida Goldware, grandmother of Bob Goldware
- 14 Kathryn Kihm, best friend of Abigail Abbuehl
- 15 Abraham Siegel, grandfather of Barry Siegel
- 16 Peter Augusto, friend of Bill Ashley-Dobbin
- 17 Shirley McCormick, mother of Michael McCormick
- 17 (24 Tishri) Nathan Ogus, father of Irene Ogus
- 21 Osna Frischman, mother of Ralph Frischman
- 22 Sara Kling, niece of Jane Graeven
- 23 (30 Tishri) Abraham Cahn, father of Isabel Fishman
- 24 Dora Sprio, grandmother of Shelley Spiro
- 26 (3 Cheshvan) Abner Schmidt, grandfather of Don Albert
- 31 Mary Palmatier, aunt of Dana Vinicoff

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Classified Ad

WANTED: Paid escort to opera for patient with Alzheimer's disease. Must have car. Message phone: 387-1825.

OCTOBER

תשרי-חשוון

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				8 Tishri 1 Social Action Comm., 7:30 pm	9 2 Kol Nidre See High Holiday Schedule	10 3 Yom Kippur
11 4 Sukkah Building 424 Central Ave., noon	12 5	13 6 Education Night	14 7 Erev Sukkot	15 8 Sukkot Service & Potluck, 424 Central Ave., 6:30pm	16 9 Services, 8:15pm	17 10 Children's Havurah Sukkot Potluck, 4pm, 534-1606 (Oakland)
18 11 Women's Havurah Theater Party Theater Rhinoceros	19 12 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	20 13 Education Night	21 14 Soviet Vigil, Green & Baker, 11:30am Simchat Torah Service, 7:30 pm	22 15 Simchat Torah	23 16 Services, 8:15pm	24 17
25 18 Simchat Torah Rally & Fair, Green & Baker, 10am	26 19	27 20 Education Night	28 21 Jewish Art & Artists, 7:30pm	29 22	30 23 Rosh Chodesh I Services, 8:15pm	1 Cheshvan 24 Rosh Chodesh II
2 25	3 26	4 27 Education Night	5 28 Jewish Art & Artists, 7:30pm	6 29 UAHC Biennial, Chicago Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm	7 30 UAHC Biennial Services, 8:15pm	8 31 UAHC Biennial Morning Services, 10:30am

Ritual Calendar

Friday, October 2

Yom Kippur

See High Holiday Calendar

Saturday, October 3

Yom Kippur

See High Holiday Calendar

Sunday, October 4

Sukkah Building

424 Central Avenue, noon

Thursday, October 8

Sukkot potluck and service

424 Central Avenue, 6:30 pm
Steve Greenberg & Dana Vinicoff

Friday, October 9

Shabbat Chol ha'Moed Sukkot

Leslie Bergson & Nancy Snow

Wednesday, October 14

Simchat Torah service, 7:30 pm

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Garry Koenigsberg
& Shana Winokur

Friday October 16

Parshah: Bereshit
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Bill Schlichter

Friday, October 23

Parshah: Noah
Dana Vinicoff & Aaron Frankel
The Torah will be read.

Friday, October 30

Parshah: Lech Lecha
Garry Koenigsberg

Saturday, October 31

Shabbat morning services, 10:30 am
Shana Winokur

Friday, November 6

Parshah: Vayera

Steve Greenberg & Phil Charney,
services

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, sermon

MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.

Besides the benefits,
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

Va'ad Report

President Richard Inlander opened the Va'ad's September 14 meeting. In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn explained that God can forgive transgressions against God, but we must seek forgiveness from one another at this time of the year. But because it is so difficult, we talk about this more than we do it.

By acclamation, the Va'ad approved Bob Goldware's motion that "the Va'ad commend and congratulate Susan Unger and all those who participated in the Cookbook Project for a marvelous job and a wonderful product."

Richard proposed the formation of a Children's Education Committee to explore our options for educating our children. The Va'ad approved the proposal, and named seven CSZ members to serve on the committee—Don Albert, Sue Douglass, Allan Gold, Allyce Kimerling, Ellen Kugler, Ida Kuluk and Jonathan Schwartz, in addition to Rabbi Yoel Kahn (who will be an ex officio member).

Mike Rankin reported on resolutions to be brought before the UAHC biennial in October, including one in "support for inclusion of lesbian and gay Jews" submitted by Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, and another submitted by the UAHC Committee on AIDS, opposing mandatory AIDS testing. Sha'ar Zahav's proposal calling for equal employment opportunities for lesbians and gay men will be distributed to all delegates attending the biennial. Mike also reported some progress on forming a regional UAHC committee on AIDS.

Richard announced that Rosalinda del Moral is the chair of this year's Chanukah Party committee. The Va'ad set the date of CSZ's Chanukah party for Sunday, December 20 at the Lake Merced Boat House.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

SPONSOR AN ONEG!
It's a great way to
celebrate a special occasion.

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our *yahrzeit* or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

March on Washington

(Continued from page 3)

tion and housing for the march, call the hot line at the San Francisco Bay Area March on Washington Headquarters at 330-5106. For additional information, call Drew Siegel at the San Francisco March Headquarters, 861-5536, or visit the office at 2362 Market. The office is open 11 am to 6 pm, seven days a week.

Oneg Sponsors

During August, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 7 Eric Keitel, in honor of Ralph Frischman and the members of the 10th Anniversary Committee
- 28 The many friends of Sen Talley, in honor of Sen's Bat Mitzvah

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Social Action

Learn About the Bork Nomination

The Social Action Committee urges you to educate yourself about President Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the United States Supreme Court. The United States Senate is scheduled to vote on confirmation of Judge Bork in early October. It is reported that up to one-third of all senators, including California Sen. Pete Wilson, are still undecided about this issue. This nomination is of crucial importance, since it may control the majority vote of the Supreme Court for years to come.

A broad coalition of groups, including the UAHC, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Council of Jewish Women, and People for the American Way, has organized to oppose Bork's confirmation. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution urging the Senate to reject Bork's nomination. Among their concerns are that Judge Bork has stated that the Bill of Rights is a "hastily drafted document upon which little thought was expended." He has consistently opposed civil rights for women and minorities, and has stated that there is no right to privacy in the United States Constitution.

The Social Action Committee has put together an information sheet, including names and phone numbers of sources of more information, which is available on the back table at services and is also available through the synagogue office. We urge you to learn about this issue and communicate your thoughts to members of the Senate as soon as possible.

—Allyce Kimerling
for the Social Action Committee

Sibling Note

Miami: Etz Chaim's president, Michael Greenspan, has been appointed to the regional board of the Southeast Council of the UAHC. The congregation also was featured in a flattering article in the *Jewish Floridian*.

Support for Central American Refugees

They killed four sons, four brothers, and my granddaughter. They killed all my animals. They burned my house. (Displaced Salvadoran)

The war in El Salvador and violence and persecution in both El Salvador and Guatemala continue. In recent months, killings of civilians and bombings of human rights organizations in El Salvador have increased. In response, the numbers of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees seeking asylum in the United States continue to grow.

Sha'ar Zahav, as part of the Sanctuary Movement and a member of the San Francisco Sanctuary Covenant, is working to assist these refugees. There are many ways you can become involved:

DeConcini-Moakley Legislation: In October, the Senate is expected to vote on legislation temporarily suspending deportation of Salvadoran refugees pending a study of the situation in El Salvador. The bill has already passed the House. Write to your senators.

Sukkot celebrations: As part of the Jewish tradition of "ushpizim," inviting honored guests into the sukkah, we plan to invite members of the refugee community to join us at our Sukkot service/potluck on Thursday, October 8. This will be an opportunity for CSZ members to talk with individual refugees.

In addition, the JCC will sponsor a special Sanctuary Sukkot Celebration on Tuesday, October 13, 7 pm, at 3200 California St. The celebration will include Sukkot rituals, Hebrew and Latin American folk songs, and personal testimony of refugees. People are asked to bring gifts of dried beans, rice, hard cheese, and cartons of eggs to help feed refugee families. Admission is free.

City of Refuge Celebration: On Thursday, December 10, International Human Rights Day, the San Francisco Sanctuary Covenant will sponsor a celebration of San Francisco as a City of Refuge for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees. Key city political and religious leaders will participate, and

entertainment will follow. The celebration, to benefit the refugee community, will be held in the Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., 6-9 pm. A donation of \$25 or more is requested. Plan to attend if you can. You can also help plan the event. For more information, contact the Social Action Committee.

There are many other ongoing efforts to support refugees—CSZ's Sanctuary Bond Fund (to enable refugees to be released from incarceration), the Grupo de la Comida, which collects badly needed food, and other activities. More information is available on flyers posted in the synagogue.

—Ami Zusman

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Francie Hornstein** on the recent loss of her cousin, Julius Hornstein.

To **Dan Bellm** on the recent loss of his friend, John Quinn.

To **Ruth Schoenbach** on the recent loss of her father, Uriel Schoenbach, and on the recent loss of her grandmother, Bessie Apple.

To many in the community on the recent loss of our friend, Ron Cohen.

Food Bank

Please, don't forget our brothers and sisters in need. Keep filling the shul's collection baskets with non-perishable food and other household items for the SF AIDS Foundation's residence program.

Theater Party

Members of the Women's Havurah and their women friends will gather at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, San Francisco, on Sunday, October 11 for "A Late Snow," a remarkable comedy about lesbian life by the late Jane Chambers.

The performance will be preceded by a reception and get-together, with refreshments, at the theater beginning at 6:30 pm and provided by the Women's Havurah. The play begins at 8 pm.

Don't miss this very special opportunity to see your Women's Havurah friends and make new ones. The event is coordinated by Sylvia Weisenberg.

Please call the synagogue office regarding ticket availability.

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the *Forward*.
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you saw their ads.

Naches

Mazel tov to **Alita Rosenfeld**, the new national champion for discus in her age group. Alita earned this distinction in August at the National Masters Track and Field Meet in Eugene, Ore. She also brought home a silver in shot-put and a bronze in javelin.

Congratulations are also in order for **Neil Hart**. On September 17, the first solo exhibition of his photographs opened at the University of Arizona at Tuscon for a month's run.

* * *

We'd all like to share in the *naches* of members of our Sha'ar Zahav family. If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

So Ask Aunt Yente

So sometimes that nice editor at the *Forward* decides that Aunt Yente talks too much, and drops out a word or two. Last month's column was written, about Yom Kippur, that "This solemn assembly is not a sad one;" but printed, it read "This solemn assembly is a sad one." No one but Aunt Yente seemed to notice, but since her point was that the hope of Yom Kippur is more important than the sadness, she thought she would mention.

Dear Aunt Yente,

I was in the middle of building a sukkah in my living room, when my decorator and the president of my condo came running in to complain. I've worked things out with the decorator (the sukkah is OK as long as it's very Marin), but the condo is threatening to sue. Can Aunt Yente advise?

Do-it-yourselfer on Diamond Heights

Dear Do-it,

Of course. Find someplace else to build it.

You shouldn't think Aunt Yente agrees with the condos; let them find out what that weird *tsimmes* is in the hot tub before they worry about your living room. Also you shouldn't think that Aunt Yente doesn't want you should build a sukkoh; this is a wonderful commandment, and Aunt Yente is overjoyed that you are fulfilling it. But there are rules about what is and what is not a sukkoh; and to forget the rules could be to forget what a sukkoh is for altogether.

So what is a sukkoh? The word "sukkoh" means a shelter or a small building, and in the Torah, it says that 15 days after Rosh Hashonoh is a holiday we should live in sukkoh for seven days. Today, not many actually live in the sukkoh, but to eat, to light candles, maybe to sleep in the sukkoh for the seven days of the holiday is a mitzvoh.

Complete blueprints you can find in the Talmud. There must be three walls, higher than 4 feet but less than 30, and the sukkoh must be at least 9 feet square, or big enough to hold your head, your table, and most of your body. (If your sukkoh is

so small your body can't fit, so you'll have to go on the Flatbush Hills diet: First day pickled herring, second day Bismark herring, third day Matjes herring, fourth day shmaltz herring, fifth day building a bigger sukkoh doesn't seem such a bad idea.) But most important is that the sukkoh is not permanent, but is temporary, built for the holiday. The roof, which is *takke* what really makes a sukkoh a sukkoh, can only be covered loosely with reeds, or branches, or other harvested growing things, not with building material or cloth. There must be more shade than sun, but when you look up, you have to be able to see the stars. (All in all, the Talmud is describing the average \$200,000 house in San Francisco. If more realtors had helped write it, they could have just said, "Cozy *very* jr. 5, rustic, skylights.")

So since you can't see the stars through the ceiling of your condo (at least, Aunt Yente hopes not), the sukkoh can't be in the living room.

So what is Aunt Yente making all the fuss about? Does it matter so much what is on the roof, or what you can see through it? Yes, *kinderlach*, it does; and here we have a long story.

The Torah says that the sukkoh remembers the shelters God gave us when we left Egypt, although it is not clear whether it means actual shelters, or the shelter of God's presence. (Current biblical scholarship rejects the idea that it refers to tax shelters, although the depreciation deduction from a building that lasts only seven days is not *gehokte leber*.) But then you would expect that Sukkos would be in spring, the time of the Exodus? So the Talmud explains that to go out to a sukkoh on a warm spring night would not be so unusual; so we are commanded to go live in booths in late October, *nebech*, so that everyone can notice and say, "Oh, it's those Jews again."

But the main reason Sukkos is in the fall comes from a time we were farmers, and at harvest time would build shelters to stay in the fields and watch the crops. Aunt Yente likes we should remember

farming customs, so we don't forget that food doesn't spring forth already wrapped in the coolers at Safeway. But there is another harvest for us at the time of Sukkos, of what we have together grown during Rosh Hashonoh and Yom Kippur.

On Yom Kippur, we fast, give up shoes, and washing, and drinking, and even eating, so we can try to ignore the earthly part of us, and find the spirit. But Yom Kippur is only one day—you can't live without eating (and if you can, Aunt Yente doesn't want to know from it), and besides, we're not meant to be only spirit. Our bodies and how we enjoy them are no less holy than any other part of us.

What we give up at Sukkos is a little different. We go out of the condo, or the apartment, or the house, to a little booth with a roof of twigs, maybe, or grass. So it's not color coordinated, and maybe it doesn't even have a nice VCR; but a friend to talk to, or a book that's appropriate for the holiday (or even some old Aunt Yente columns) can keep us *lebedik*. What is essential to us, and what is not essential, becomes a little clearer; and it becomes clearer still when we can lift our eyes up and see the stars.

Enjoy Sukkos!

Aunt Yente

P.S. You may not know (so Aunt Yente will tell you) that *holuptches*—stuffed cabbage—are a traditional food for Sukkos. If you could find yourself the right kind of cookbook, you would *takke* have recipes for this and other such important dishes, for all the holidays. Especially a cookbook with little stories, and drawings. Such a cookbook would be wonderful to have. As Aunt Yente's Aunt Sadie used to say, "a prayerbook you only use three times a day, but a good cookbook can add several dress sizes."

Aunt Yente loves to receive your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material Copyright © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Robert & Hermine Hoffman, in memory of Fred Hoffman

Mark Mendelow, in memory of his uncle Robert Mendelow

Dan H., in memory of his daughter Sara Galila

Ami Zusman, in memory of Mirtha Beal

Teresa Wertman & Vicki Oliver, in honor of their union

Building Fund

Steve Elman, in appreciation of Ralph Frischman & Eric Keitel for all their work and creativity that made our 10th Anniversary party such a success

Library Fund

Steve Elman, in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. & Mrs. Moses Redner

General Fund

The many admirers of Rosalinda del Moral, in honor of her 40th birthday

Bernard Pechter, in memory of Jack Brock

Bruce Katz, in honor of Andy Zimmerman's new home

Steve Elman

Prayerbook Fund

Jerome Singer & Donald Dodge

AIDS Fund

Bill Goldstein, in honor of Paul Cohen's birthday & Bikkur Cholim leadership

MEMBERSHIP
feels good

Birthdays

- 2 Sharyn Saslafsky
- 4 Richard Inlander
- 5 Lisa Steinberg
- 7 Randy Heilbrunn
- 7 David Wasserman
- 7 Michael Zimmerman
- 7 Joey Finkelstein
- 11 Forrest Kincade
- 13 David Gellman
- 13 Joshua Kennedy Rose
- 13 Robert Simon
- 13 Wendy Weiss
- 14 Michael Bettinger
- 20 Donald Berger
- 20 Ron Moskowitz
- 20 Milton Estes
- 20 Bernard Pechter
- 21 Charles Norton
- 22 David Lambert
- 23 Seth Charney
- 23 Maayan Estelle Lieberman
- 27 Jane Stone
- 28 Yoel Kahn
- 29 Allan Berenstein
- 31 Jessie Evan Hornstein

Get Your Act Together!

Can you sing, tap dance, play an instrument, or do a comedy routine? Or is your forte less conventional—fan dancing, reciting poetry backwards, or whistling Hatikvah through the space between your front teeth? Whatever your specialty, the time has come for you to join other talented Sha'ar Zahavniks in the *Chanukah Talent Show* at our gala Chanukah party on December 20.

Yes, this year will be the first time that talented members and friends will have an opportunity to really show their stuff. Acts should be about three minutes long and can be any type of performing art. We need to know how many people will be participating so call Shana Winokur (531-0818) or Gary Glasser (563-5721) as soon as possible, to sign up or for further information. We're counting on you for a *Really Big Shew!*



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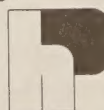
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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

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Vice President, Irene Ogus
Treasurer, Eric Keitel
Recorder, Ben Schalit

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Tiela Chalmers
Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Betty Kalis
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Robin Leonard
Alita Rosenfeld
Susan Talley

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm, with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Family/Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Past Presidents Council, Cheryl Orvis
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, by committee
Women's Havurah, by committee

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Manager:

Jacqueline Letalien

Synagogue Office: Open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2:30 pm. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members in September. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Jenifer Dahlstrom & Jason
Andre Fournier
Michael Khomanecki-Dzubek
Maggie Rochlin and Sandy Meyers
Sue Saperstein & Sabra
Arthur Seidman

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Anniversaries

- 1 Brian Ellis & Steven Farmer
- 5 Beth & Ellen
- 10 Joyce Amburgey & Cynthia Schorr
- 12 Alex Ingersoll & David Stein
- 12 Terry Rothchild & Lynn Taylor
- 17 Diane Spaugh & Marjorie Hilsenrad
- 22 Stephen R. Walters & David Marks
- 29 Bill Goldstein & Christopher Archuleta
- 30 Gail Friedlander & Gail Atkins
- 31 Roberta Weber & Lynn A.
- 31 Jacqueline Letalien & Vicki Dello Joio

Office Notes

Calling All Kipot! Do you have a secret cache of yarmulkes somewhere in your home? In your coat pockets? In your car? If so, will you please make a point of replenishing our dwindling supply. Also, if you have a copy of a Friday night or Saturday morning *siddur* (or a High Holiday Machzor) which you borrowed from the synagogue, please return it. We would like to avoid the costs of reprinting additional copies.

The text of **Rabbi Kahn's sermon**, *B'tzelem Elohim* (In the Divine Image), delivered at the International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations in Amsterdam on July 3, is available from the synagogue office.

CSZ will not be having a **Sukkot morning service** on October 8. CSZ members and friends are especially invited as guests at Temple Emanu-El's service at 10:30 am.